

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 VO-03 CPR-01 SCA-01

PRS-01 SY-05 USSS-00 FBIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

CU-02 OES-03 L-03 SAJ-01 OIC-02 PA-01 USIA-06 ORM-01

DHA-02 PM-04 EB-07 COME-00 SP-02 DODE-00 ARA-06 /101 W

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2256

E.O. 11652: GDR

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, CZ, US

SUBJECT: SECVISIT: 30TH UNGA; CZECHOSLOVAK REQUEST FOR
BILATERAL MEETING

REFS: A) STATE 174996 B) PRAGUE 2037

1. CHARGE AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON ZANTOVSKY (HEAD SIXTH DEPT MFA) SEPT 3 TO PRESENT TEXT OF SECRETARY'S SEPT 1 SPEECH AT UNGA SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION (PER INSTRUCTIONS STATE 207699). ZANTOVSKY USED OCCASION TO MAKE REQUEST FOR BILATERAL MEETING AT REGULAR UNGA SESSION OF FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK WITH THE SECRETARY.

2. ZANTOVSKY, JUST RETURNED FROM VACATION, USED OCCASION OF CALL TO DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS, STARTING WITH HELSINKI CSCE MEETING. ZANTOVSKY SAID GOC FELT U.S. DESERVED GREAT CREDIT FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THIS MEETING, AND IN PARTICULAR PRESIDENT FORD'S SPEECH WAS CONSIDERED BY THE GOC AS ONE OF THE BEST AND MOST IMPORTANT AT HELSINKI. GOC THOUGHT BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND CHNOUPEK EXTREMELY USEFUL, LOOKED FORWARD TO HARTMAN VISIT, AND THOUGHT IN INTERIM THAT KISSINGER-CHNOUPEK MEETING AT UNGA WOULD BE VALUABLE FOLLOW-
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UP TO HELSINKI.

3. SPECIFICALLY, GOC THOUGHT FOLLOWING ITEMS COULD BE DISCUSSED AT UNGA BILATERAL: (A) OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON EXCHANGES IN SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL FIELDS. (ZANTOVSKY SAID EXPLORATORY TALKS HAD BEEN SUSPENDED AT U.S. INITIATIVE, AND CZECH SIDE WAS READY TO RESUME WHENEVER USG GAVE THE SIGNAL.) (B) ABOLITION OF CLOSED AREAS. (ZANTOVSKY COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS NEEDLESS RELIC OF COLD WAR AND CAUSED IRRITATION WITHOUT SERVING ANY PURPOSES; THEREFORE GOC THOUGHT SYSTEM SHOULD BE DONE AWAY WITH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.) (C) REDUCTION OF TIME FOR THREE OF CZECH SHIP VISITS TO U.S. PORTS. (ZANTOVSKY SAID U.S. HAD ALLEVIATED SITUATION EVEN FOR CUBAN SHIPS, WHY NOT FOR CZECH ONES.) (D) DIVIDED FAMILIES. (ZANTOVSKY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SLOWDOWN AFTER LONG-GRAVEL, BUT SAID GOC HAD NOT FORGOTTEN THIS PROBLEM AND WAS WORKING ON IT FURTHER. CHARGE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE, AS INDICATED BY FACT SECRETARY RAISED IT AT HELSINKI WITH CHNOUPEFJML (E) PRIVATE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. (ZANTOVSKY NOTED KISSINGER-CHNOUPEK DISCUSSION OF DAVID ROCKEFELLER VISIT, AND SAID STARR OF CHASE-MANHATTAN WAS VISITING PRAGUE ON SEPT 23. HE ALSO NOTED VISIT TO U.S. IN OCT OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DELEGATION FOR SIGNING OF U.S. CSSR CHAMBER AGREEMENT. HE SAID PROSPECTS FOR GREATER TRADE WERE GOOD ENOUGH THAT THIS ITEM WAS WORTH FURTHER DISCUSSION AT UNGA.)

4. CHARGE SAID HE PERSONALLY AGREED THAT BILATERAL WOULD BE GOOD IDEA, BUT IMAGINED SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE, ESPECIALLY AFTER COMPRESSION DUE TO MIDEAST TRIP, WOULD BE VERY TIGHT. IN ANY EVENT, EMBASSY WOULD PRESENT REQUEST. (POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAID IT WOULD HELP TO KNOW DATES OF CHNOUPEK'S STAY IN NY. ZANTOVSKY SAID EXACT ARRIVAL DATE NOT YET KNOWN, BUT INFORMALLY CHNOUPEK'S SPEECH WAS SET FOR SEPT 30 AND THEY EXPECTED HE WOULD STAY IN NY THROUGH OCT 10.) CHARGE SAID AMB SHERER'S PRESENCE AT USUN MIGHT HELP FACILITATE CONTACTS, AND IN ANY EVENT SOME OF GOC DEL PRESUMABLY WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY MEET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN.

5. IN CONTEXT OF GENERAL DISCUSSION OF IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS, CHARGE NOTED IMPORTANCE AT PRESENT TIME OF AVOID-CONFIDENTIAL

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ING ANY IRRITATING MOVES AND OF SHOWING MODERATION, AND MENTIONED TWO SPECIFIC MATTERS, THE GOC PUERTO RICAN VOTE (SEPTEL) AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS. HARKING BACK TO TALKS WITH MFA OFFICIALS DURING ZANTOVSKY'S VACATION, CHARGE STRESSED THAT CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS WAS READ CAREFULLY IN WASHINGTON, AND ITS TONE WAS TAKEN AS AN INDICATION OF HOW GOC FELT ABOUT BILATERAL ATMOSPHERE. THEREFORE MODERATION IN PRESS BECAME VERY IMPORTANT IF RELATIONS

WERE TO BE IMPROVED. ZANTOVSKY SAID DIPLOMATS COULD NOT DICTATE TO JOURNALISTS IN THIS REGARD, BUT MFA WOULD DO EVERYTHING IT COULD.

6. COMMENT. EMBOFFS FELT THAT ZANTOVSKY'S PRESENTATION WAS MUCH MORE UPBEAT AND FORWARD-LOOKING, DESPITE THE TRADE ACT AND LONG-GRAVEL (WHICH HE MENTIONED AS AN OBSTACLE BUT DID NOT STRESS OR DWELL ON), THAN GOC POSITIONS OF A FEW MONTHS AGO. FACT THAT HE BROUGHT UP DIVIDED FAMILIES VOLUNTARILY IS NOTEWORTHY, AND HIS MENTION OF CLOSED AREA ABOLITION IS MOST EMPHATIC IN SOME TIME. HIS PRESENTATION CONFIRMS OUR IMPRESSION THAT GOC IS LOOKING FOR MINOR WAYS TO SHOW IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS DESPITE LONG GRAVEL.

7 RECOMMENDATION: AS THE EMBASSY HAS STATED PREVIOUSLY, WE BELIEVE AN UNGA BILATERAL WITH CHNOUPEK, IF THE SECRETARY'S TIGHT SCHEDULE PERMITS, WOULD BE USEFUL AT THIS TIME.
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